

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-05 /062 W

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R 211023Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO CINCPAC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1549

JCS/ASD/M&RA WASHDC

JCS/ASDXPA WASHDC

CINCPACREPPHIL SUBIC

CDR 13AF CLARK

SSA/EICPAC STARS AND STRIPES TOKYO

CDR/EIC PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3640

DEPT PASS USIA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES NEWSPAPERS AND TRANSIT OF
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REF: (A) CINCPAC 210259Z MAR 75

(B) CINCPAC 210357Z MAR 75

1. SINCE SEPTEMBER 1972 DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW AND
IMPOSITION OF CONTROLS ON LOCAL MEDIA, GOP HAS DISPLAYED
CONSISTENT CONCERN OVER PSS COVERAGE OF PHILIPPINE EVENTS.
PSS COVERAGE HAS INCLUDED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS PARTICULARLY
RE MINDANAO THAT LOCAL MEDIA NOT PERMITTED TO CARRY. GOP
HAS RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PSS ONLY TO PERSONS WITH PRIVILEGES
TO IMPORT UNDER BASES AGREEMENT. LOCAL PSS OFFICE HAS
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ACCORDINGLY CEASED SALE OF PAPER AT HOTELS AND OTHER

OUTLETS.

2. THEREFORE, IT NOT UNUSUAL THAT GOP CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT MIA, GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, WOULD MAKE CAREFUL REVIEW OF NEWSPAPER. IT CAN BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT SUCH REVIEW EITHER ORDERED OR SANCTIONED BY APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL OF GOP LEADERSHIP. TIME, NEWSWEEK AND SIMILAR FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS ALSO SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND OCCASSIONAL CONFISCATION.

3. ADDRESSEES SHOULD REFLECT ON FACT THAT CUSTOMS EXEMPTION PROVISIONS OF US-RP 1947 MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT, AS AMENDED, IS PHRASED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS. IT STATES US ARMED FORCES CAN IMPORT ITEMS QUOTE FOR EXCLUSIVE USE IN CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, OPERATION OR DEFENSE OF THE BASES, CONSIGED TO, OR DESTINED FOR, THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES AND CERTIFIED BY THEM TO BE FOR SUCH PURPOSES UNQUOTE. WHILE THIS BROAD WORDING PROBLY WOULD COVER THE ITEMS IN QUESTION AND TECHNICALLY AUTHORIZE ENTRY THROUGH MIA, IT WOULD BE BEST TO AVOID FORCING ISSUE WITH GOP. THEREFORE, WITHOUT GETTING INTO TALMUDIC REASONING NECESSARY TO SUPPORT PROPOSITION THAT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN REVIEW OF PSS, FACT IS THAT AS LONG AS PSS TRANSITS MIA THE GOP CAN INTERFERE WITH PSS SHIPMENTS.

4. WE BELIEVE COMMERCIAL AIR DELIVERY IS MISTAKE. WE URGE RETURN TO USE OF MAC EVEN IF THIS RESULTS IN DELAYED DELIVERIES.
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